

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00258 112321Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /069 W

-----012734 112325Z /61

P 111900Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1041

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0258

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: P.Q. ENGAGES IN PARLIAMENTARY SLEIGHT OF HAND

1. IN PARLIAMENTARY MANOEUVRE AIMED AT UNDERCUTTING FILIBUSTER THREAT BY OPPOSITION, GOQ ON JULY 8 WITHDREW CONTROVERSIAL LANGUAGE 'BILL ONE'. LEST THE MANY CRITICS OF LANGUAGE LEGISLATION TAKE UNWARRANTED COMFORT, MINISTER OF SPORT, LEISURE, AND YOUTH CLAUDE CHARRON, SERVING AS GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, ANNOUNCED PLAN TO INTRODUCE 'BILL 101' NEXT WEE( WHICH, HE ASSURED LISTENERS, WILL CONTAIN ALL IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES FROM ORIGINAL LANGUAGE CHARTER. COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON BILL ONE, WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY FOR PAST FIVE WEEKS, WILL NO LONGER BE NECESSARY, ACCORDING TO CHARRON, SINCE LEGISLATION IS BEING WITHDRAWN. THE LANGUAGE LAW GODFATHER, CAMILLE LAURIN, LATER TOLD ASSEMBLY THAT BILL 101 WILL HAVE FIRST READING AND PASS DIRECTLY TO SECOND READING SINCE ALL ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE QUESTION HAVE ALREADY BEEN HEARD AD NAUSEAM. NEW BILL, HE SAID, WILL INCORPORATE MANY AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED DURING HEARINGS ON BILL ONE.

2. OUTRAGED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPPOSITION MEMBERS, CHARACTERIZED UNUSUAL P.Q. ACTION AS "UNDEMOCRATIC" POINTING OUT THAT ONLY  
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PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00258 112321Z

62 OF ALMOST 300 PETITIONS ON 'BILL ONE' HAVE BEEN HEARD. NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER GOQ WILL BE ABLE MOVE SMOOTHLY ON TO INTRODUCTION OF NEW BILL WITHOUT EMBARRASSING MOTION OF CLOTURE. HOWEVER, EVEN AFTER FIRST READING OF NEW BILL, OPPOSITION WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY OF FURTHER DELAY AS LEGISLATION IS SUBJECT TO MANDATORY CLAUSE BY CLAUSE CONSIDERATION FOLLOWED BY THIRD READING DEBATE.

3. GOQ'S LARGE MAJORITY IN ASSEMBLY VIRTUALLY INSURES ULTIMATE PASSAGE OF LANGUAGE LEGISLATION. NONETHELESS, THIS CANNOT BE DONE WITHOUT FURTHER DEBATE, GIVEN STRONG FEELINGS OF SOME MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION ON QUESTION OF LANGUAGE CUOPLED WITH MORE GENERAL WISH TO EMBARRASS GOVERNMENT. IMMEDIATE GOAL OF OPPOSITIONS NOW IS TO DELAY PASSAGE UNTIL AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF NEXT SCHOOL YEAR IN SEPTEMBER. MOST OBSERVERS HERE ANTICIPATE LONG ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE BEFORE INEVITABLE PASSAGE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** P.Q. ENGAGES IN PARLIAMENTARY SLEIGHT OF HAND  
**TAGS:** PINT, CA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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